

BOROUGH OF MORPETH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1898.

BOROUGH OF MORPETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Reports of the Medical Officer of Health, and the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1898.

MEDICAL REPORT.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—

The population of Morpeth at the census of 1891	5219	
The population estimated to June 30th, 1897	5446	
No. of births registered July 1st to Dec. 31st, 1897 ...	84	...
No. of deaths (excluding Workhouse)	50	...
Increase	34	
No. of births registered Jan. 1st to June 30th, 1898 ...	85	...
No. of deaths (excluding Workhouse)	51	...
Increase	34	
Population estimated to June 30th, 1898	5514	
No. of births registered July 1st to Dec. 31st, 1898 ...	92	...
No. of deaths (excluding Workhouse)	44	...
Increase	48	
Population estimated to Dec. 31st, 1898	5562	
The deaths occurring in Workhouse, 9 mls, 12 fls.	21	
Number of births registered during the year 1898.....	177	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population for 1898	32	
The number of deaths registered during 1898	99	
The death-rate per 1,000 of the population in		
1898 was 17		
1897 „ 18		
1896 „ 19		
1895 „ 19		
1894 „ 19		

Infant Mortality. — No. of }
deaths under 1 yr. of age } 32

Infant mortality per 1,000 births in
 1898 was 140
 1897 „ 91
 1896 „ 179
 1895 „ 116
 1894 „ 162

The number of deaths from Phthisis ...	15
The death-rate per 1,000 population from Phthisis	2·9
The number of deaths from Zymotic Disease	1
The death-rate per 1,000 population from Zymotic Dis. }	18
The number of cases of infectious disease notified..... }	14
The number of cases of deaths from acute Respiratory Diseases	28

During the year 1898 we have enjoyed a remarkable freedom from infectious disease, there having been only 14 cases notified, and but 1 death, which resulted from nephritis, following an unobserved case of scarlatina, of which disease isolated cases occurred in February, March, April and May. The infant mortality was greater than last year, the death-rate being equal to 140 per 1,000 births. The principal causes of death were acute respiratory diseases (bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy) 28, with 3 deaths from influenza. Phthisis caused 15 deaths, the death-rate from that disease being 2·9 per 1,000 of the population, the average rate for the last 10 years being 3·1.

WATER SUPPLY.—The new waterworks at Tranwell are now complete, and it is hoped the supply of water consisting of deep spring water from the boreholes admixed with filtered water from the enlarged and the new storage reservoir will be sufficient to meet the growing needs of the town for many years to come.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The Council having acquired a substantial building, built for a Grand Stand upon Morpeth Common, has been able, by an expenditure of about £800, to convert it into a very useful Isolation Hospital, having 2 wards capable

of holding about 6 beds, isolated by a verandah from the administrative block, which consists of kitchen and nurses' duty room and housekeeper's bedroom on the ground floor, with two nurses' bedrooms on second floor. Each ward has bath room and w.c. attached, and the same conveniences are attached to the central block. In addition a large ward, capable of holding in any serious epidemic, say of small-pox or enteric fever, from 12 to 16 beds, is reserved for emergencies, being connected with the administrative block by the verandah.

SEWAGE AND RIVER POLLUTION.—Mr. Balfour, C.E., is engaged in preparing estimates and specifications for collecting all the sewers in one outfall at the Low Stanners, with a series of tanks and filters to be arranged for purifying the sewage upon the bacteriological principles, and for the treatment of the effluent, which shall hereafter be considered necessary when the first two sections of the work are completed.

REQUIREMENTS.—An ambulance carriage will be required for the conveyance of patients to the Isolation Hospital. Washhouse and disinfecting

room will be arranged at the Hospital, which is now nearing its completion. Public slaughterhouses are required, and an effort is now being made by the Council to arrange for their erection upon the Low Stanners, upon a site belonging to the Corporation, with good hard road and water supply at hand and facilities for drainage, and at a convenient distance from the shops of the butchers. Scavenging and general attention to the sanitary requirements of the town have received careful consideration of the officials, and many improvements have been carried out.

Building operations still continue in the North Fields and Thorpe Estates, and upon the High Stanners, and generally the condition of house property has been much improved. Rebuilding of the conveniences for the boys at St. James' National Schools has been carried out, and the conveniences at all the schools in the town are now of modern construction and carefully attended to.

F. W. SKRIMSHIRE,

Fell. Royal Institute Public Health.
Fell. Society Medical Officers of Health

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—

During the year 1898 plans for 23 new buildings and 16 plans of alterations and additions to existing buildings were passed by you. Of these, 5 new houses and 1 alteration have not yet been commenced. 18 new houses and 1 church have been built, which is a sure indication of the steady increase of population. The number of nuisances abated during the year is 35, and the number of notices issued *re* limewashing of premises 37. The sewers have been re-laid in part of Cottingwood Lane and Well Way. A surface water drain in Cottingwood Lane is approaching completion. In Bridge Street storm water drains have been put in near St. George's Church, and a storm overflow to the sewer at foot of Stanley Terrace. New water mains have been put in on North Field estate, which in this respect is complete; also to a back street on the Thorp estate, and about 600 yards of main have been put in to the hospital on the Common. The works of water supply at Tranwell are reported as finished, so that an abundant supply of water should be forthcoming. The Council having come to a decision as to the connection of sewers and to the disposal of sewage, it

is hoped that the purification of the river will be speedy, and the town made still more attractive thereby. The conversion of the Grand Stand into a hospital is proceeding surely, if slowly, and as a precautionary measure it is exceedingly valuable, and when necessity arises will be most useful. A very important work is still before the Council, and that is public slaughterhouses. By the abolition of the many private slaughterhouse as existing at the present time, in some cases in crowded districts, a great improvement will be made. The choice of a site is a first necessity for a public slaughterhouse here, afterwards the difficulties are not great. New stables, cartsheds, and store yards are also desirable. Additional facilities are necessary for the traffic to the High Stanners, which has greatly increased in population, and by the putting down of a good cart bridge at Oldgate, in the place of the existing foot bridge, it is not improbable that a great deal of building would take place on the land now used as gardens. The greater number of the footpaths are now either concreted or asphalted, and it is to be hoped that the remainder, viz., those on the High Stanners and Spelvet Lane, will soon be put in as good a state.

W. F. CURRY.

